methods, *i.e.* camera trap, digital photography of pugmarks to fix identities by a computer based recognition technique based on a mark-capture statistical framework, and correlation with other data, e.g. physical signs of tiger presence, prey-base, apart from DNA characterization of scats at places. The methodology has been approved by the Tiger Task Force constituted by National Board for Wildlife.

(b) The three techniques *viz.*, digital image of pugmark, camera traps and DNA scat analysis are scientifically valid methods for monitoring carnivore populations throughout the world. These have been used on mountain lion in the USA, jaguars in South America, tigers in India and South East Asia, and on wolves and bears in North America.

(c) The new methodology would give 95% interval of statistical confidence of tiger population in the country.

Rehabilitation of families displaced due to construction of Pong dam

†2462. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of families which came under submerged area of the Pong reservoir were not rehabilitated completely after the construction of the Pong dam over the Beas river in the district of Kangra;

(b) whether a 1450 feet area on the bank of Pong lake has been declared a wildlife sanctuary to displace the remaining families outside the submerged area; and

(c) if so, when its notification was issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As reported by the Government of Himachal Pradesh, the total number of families affected by the construction of the Pong dam reservoir is 20,722. As per the allotment rules of Government of Rajasthan, out of the total 16,352 number of eligible oustees, 10,580 number of oustees have been allotted land in Rajasthan till date.

(b) Yes, Sir. As per the notification of Pong Lake Sanctuary, an area up to 1450 feet altitude has been declared as a Wildlife Sanctuary.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Initial notification of the sanctuary under Section 18 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 was issued on 01.06.1983 and final notification under Section 26 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 on 23.10.1999.

Fund for development of forest villages in Madhya Pradesh

†2463. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided to different States and Madhya Pradesh for the development of forest villages by the Forest Development Authority constituted by the Central Government during current year;

(b) whether any criterion has been fixed for fund allocation;

(c) if so, what are these criterion; and

(d) whether a number of forest villages and the area of forests have been made the base for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) During 2005-06, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has released an amount of Rs.181.04 crore for the development of 1,624 forest villages in 5 States under Special Central Assistance to the Tribal Sub-Plan. The details of State-wise release are given below:

Sl. No.	State	Released Amount (Rs. in crores)
1.	Madhya Pradesh	56.07
2.	Assam	40.57
3.	Chhattisgarh	43.57
4.	Gujarat	19.79
5.	West Bengal	21.04
	TOTAL:	181.04

(b) to (d) As per the norms, all the forest villages in the various States are to be covered. It has been decided to make provision of funds at an average rate of Rs.15 lakh per forest village.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.